

Emma Goldman

Emma Goldman was born in Kovno in the Russian Empire June 27, 1869. Goldman immigrated to the US in 1885 and worked in a clothing factory in Rochester before moving to New York City in 1889.

Influenced by the libertarian writings of Johann Most, Goldman became an anarchist. Working closely with Alexander Berkman, Goldman became active in the trade union movement. During one industrial dispute, Berkman shot Henry Frick of the Carnegie Steel Company. Berkman was imprisoned and so was Goldman the following year when she was accused of urging the unemployed to steal the food they needed.

After she was released from prison Goldman became involved in the campaign for women's suffrage and birth control information. She was in the news again in 1901 when Leon Czolgosz, who assassinated President William McKinley, claimed he had been influenced by the speeches of Goldman.

Goldman and Berkman edited and published the journal, Mother Earth, between 1906-1917. Goldman also wrote Anarchism and Other Essays (1910) and The Social Significance of the Modern Drama (1914). An opponent of America's involvement in the First World War, Goldman was imprisoned for two years for obstructing conscription.

In 1919 Alexander M. Palmer, the attorney general and his special assistant, John Edgar Hoover, organized a plan to deport a large number of left-wing figures. On 7th November, 1919, the second

anniversary of the Russian Revolution, over 10,000 suspected communists and anarchists were arrested in twenty-three different cities.

Hoover decided he needed a high profile case to help his campaign against subversives. He selected Goldman as he had been particularly upset by her views on birth control, free love and religion. In court Hoover argued that Goldman's speeches had inspired anarchists to commit acts of violence in the United States. Hoover won his case; Goldman and her lover, Alexander Berkman, along with 246 other people, were deported to Russia.

*Emma Goldman - Russian Jewish
Anarchist - deported as "Bufford"
Dec. 31 - 1919.*



Emma Goldman, in a photo taken during her detention at Ellis Island

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IMMIGRATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

EXHIBIT V

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

United States of America

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

EXHIBIT B

No. 98713/52
52410/43-B

WASHINGTON

To THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION, Ellis Island, N.Y.H.

WHEREAS, from proofs submitted to me, after due hearing before Immigrant
Inspector A. P. Schell, held at Ellis Island, N. Y. H.,

I have become satisfied that the alien

Emma Goldman Keraner or Emma Goldman
who landed at the port of New York, N. Y.

on the day of June, 1905, has been found in the United States
or about 15th June, 1905, in violation of the Immigration Act of February 8, 1917 and the Act approved October 16,
approved March 26, 1910, to wit:

That she is an alien anarchist; that she
advocates the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the
United States or of all forms of law; that she believes in the over-
throw by force or violence of the Government of the United States;
that she believes in the overthrow by force or violence of all forms
of law; that she advocates the overthrow by force or violence of the
Government of the United States; that she advocates the overthrow by
force or violence of all forms of law; that she advocates the assassi-
nation of public officials; that she teaches the assassination of
public officials; that she believes in all organized government; and
that she is an opponent of the organized government; and may be deport-
ed in accordance therewith.

I, JOHN W. ABERCROMBIE, Acting Secretary of Labor, by virtue of the power
and authority vested in me by the laws of the United States, do hereby command you
to return the said alien to Russia the country whence she came, at the
expense of the appropriation "Expenses of Regulating Immigration, 1920." You
are directed to purchase transportation for the alien from
New York, N. Y., to Russia at the lowest available rate, pay-
able from the above-named appropriation.

For so doing, this shall be your sufficient warrant.

Witness my hand and seal this 1st day of December, 1919.

JOHN W. ABERCROMBIE

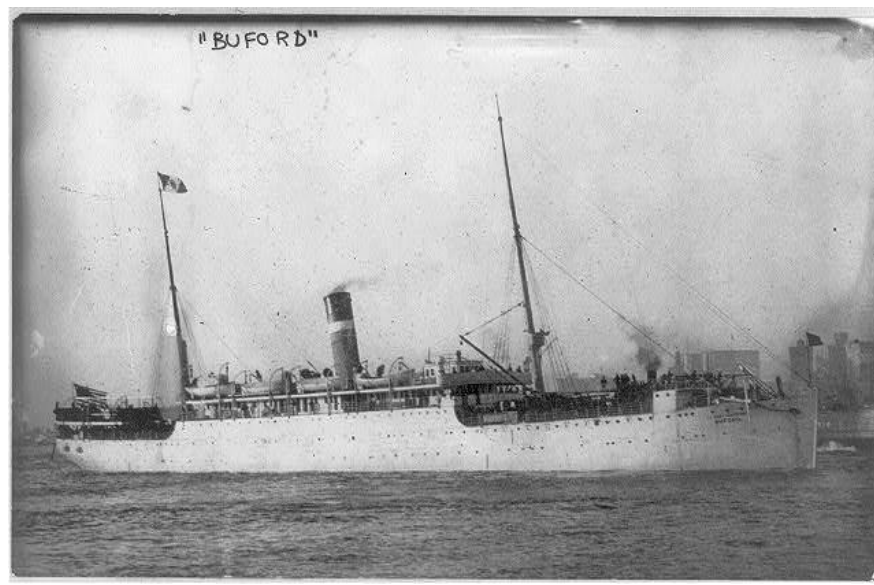
AJB

Secretary of Labor.

Emma Goldman's deportation orders

Emma Goldman described her deportation experience:

"Ludicrously secretive were the authorities about our deportation. To the very last moment we were kept in ignorance as to the time. Then, unexpectedly, in the wee small hours of December 21st we were spirited away. The scene set for this performance was most thrilling. It was six o'clock Sunday morning, December 21, 1919, when under heavy military convoy we stepped aboard the *Buford*. For twenty-eight days we were prisoners. Sentries at our cabin doors day and night, sentries on deck during the hour we were daily permitted to breathe the fresh air. Our men comrades were cooped up in dark, damp quarters, wretchedly fed, all of us in complete ignorance of the direction we were to take. Yet our spirits were high--Russia, free, new Russia was before us."



The SS *Buford* in New York harbor in 1919. The ship would carry 249 deported immigrants to Soviet Russia.

This political cartoon celebrates giving the immigrants back to Russia:

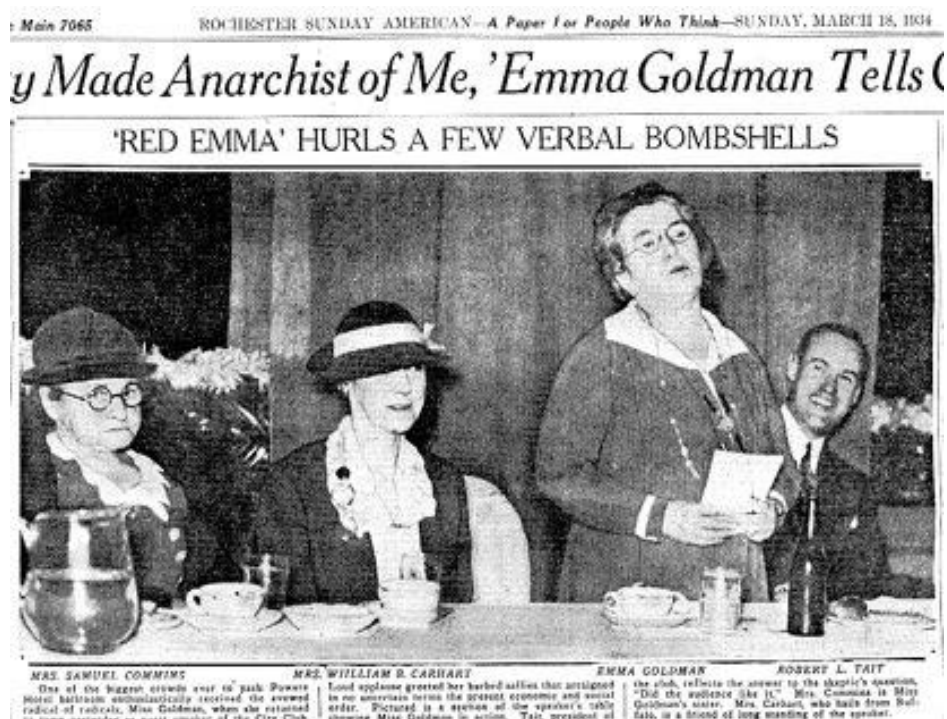


The SS Buford was nicknamed the "Soviet Ark," since it carried hundreds of Communists to Soviet Russia.

Emma Goldman arrived in Russia January 19, 1920, a cold day but she wrote that "spring was in our hearts." Goldman stayed in her native Russia for only twenty-three months. Despite the overthrow of the czar by a revolutionary government, Goldman was shocked by its continuing disregard for political freedom. She met with Vladimir Lenin, the Soviet leader, and questioned him about the lack of free speech. Unhappy with his response that free speech at that point in Russian history was a luxury not a right, Goldman eventually left the

country in disgust and disappointment. She was determined to alert the world to what she saw as the Bolsheviks' betrayal of the ideals of the revolution.

For the rest of her life Emma Goldman felt like "a woman without a country," moving from place to place, and allowed to return to the United States only once in 1934 for a brief lecture tour. Throughout her life Goldman wrote many letters, articles, speeches, and a number of books, including her autobiography, Living My Life. In 1936, she visited Spain and witnessed the optimism of the Spanish anarchists and their hope that a real revolution would occur in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. When the dictatorship of Francisco Franco triumphed, a defeated Goldman went to Canada to help raise funds for the refugees of the Spanish war and to be closer to the country in which she had felt most at home.



Emma Goldman's 1934 lecture tour of the United States made headlines in newspapers across the country

Emma Goldman died on May 14, 1940 in Toronto. The United States government permitted her body to be returned to America, and she is buried in Chicago.